

change on a permanent basis and greatly appreciates the inclusion of the provision—even in the short term.

As amended, S. 1533, would:

(1) reauthorize the critically important Community Health Centers program for another five years, including reaffirmation that Health Centers should be: located in high-need areas; provide comprehensive preventive and primary health care services; governed by community boards made up of a majority of current health center patients to assure responsiveness to local needs; and, open to everyone in the communities they serve, regardless of ability to pay; and

(2) reauthorize the important Telehealth Programs, as well as the Rural Health Care Outreach Program and the Rural Health Network Development Program. In addition, S. 1533, as amended, would authorize a new Small Health Care Provider Quality Improvement Program. These programs will go a long way to facilitate the provision of care to vulnerable populations living in rural areas all across the country.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, this Member urges his colleagues to support S. 1533, as amended.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support S. 1533, a bill which will reauthorize the Community Health Center program. This legislation ensures that community health centers will continue providing high-quality care to the medically underserved and neediest populations.

I have always been impressed with community health centers and have supported increasing the resources available to them. These centers have made wonderful contributions to the urban areas in the Fourth Congressional District, and the care they provide is as good or better than the care many patients with more comprehensive coverage receive.

Last year, these clinics served over 12 million people, 66 percent of whom live below the poverty level. Community health centers are located in 3,000 rural and urban communities throughout the country and provide quality cost-effective primary and preventive care for low-income, uninsured and underinsured patients.

By preventing costly hospitalizations and reducing the use of emergency care for routine services, it is estimated community clinics save the health care system over \$6 billion annually.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support passage of this legislation so community health centers can continue providing high-quality, cost-effective care. I urge my colleagues to vote for this bill.

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, today we will take another step toward promoting access to quality health care in Rural America. As a member of the House Rural Health Care Coalition, I am pleased with the overwhelming bipartisan support in both the House and Senate for the legislation we will pass today. Earlier this month we passed similar legislation by voice vote.

This bill supports a number of critical programs and grants leading to direct benefits to thousands of Maine citizens. There are 31 community health centers in the State of Maine, most of which are located in my district, the largest district in area east of the Mississippi River. Rural health care delivery has

been one of the top concerns of my constituents.

This bill reauthorizes the Community Health Centers Program, the National Health Service Corps, Rural Health Outreach and telehealth services. Significant improvements will be made to these programs. In particular, NHSC scholarship and loan expansions will enable rural areas to attract more mental health and dental providers. A focus on coordination and integration of telehealth networks through targeted grants will enable facilities across regions to improve direct, patient and training of providers. In addition, outreach grants, technical assistance grants, rural health network development grants, and small health care provider quality improvement grants will significantly expand access to quality health care services and enhance the delivery of health care in rural areas.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Leadership for bringing this important bill to the Floor and encourage its speedy passage.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 1533, the Health Care Safety Net Improvement Act. As you know, the House recently approved the Health Care Safety Net Improvement Act by voice vote. Today we are considering a solid bipartisan compromise between the House and Senate on this important legislation. I urge all of my colleagues to support the bipartisan compromise we are considering today.

This legislation reauthorizes our nation's key health care safety net delivery systems and creates additional efficiencies. Specifically, this bill reauthorizes the Community Health Center program, the National Health Service Corps and rural outreach grants. Each of these programs ensures that both the uninsured and the underinsured have access to quality health care services.

Since 1965, America's health centers have delivered comprehensive services to people who otherwise would face major barriers to obtaining quality, affordable health care. Health centers serve those who are hardest to reach and are required by law to make their services accessible to everyone, regardless of their ability to pay.

One of the most important programs for ensuring an adequate supply of health professionals is the National Health Service Corps. The National Health Service Corps recruits, trains, and places primary care providers in both urban and rural health care shortage areas. Program participants are health professionals who receive educational assistance in return for a period of obligated service. Our legislation reauthorizes this vital program, which serves as a pipeline for health care facilities that have trouble attracting health professionals.

S. 1533 also recognizes the importance of oral health care and authorizes the inclusion of primary dental care education. Improving rural health is another area of focus in this legislation. Often rural communities have trouble developing capacity and maintaining health care facilities. Our bill includes programs that will help rural providers develop new service capacity and integrated health delivery networks. It will help rural facilities implement quality improvement initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, given recent events and news of increasing numbers of uninsured, it is vitally important that we keep our safety net strong. This bill will allow critical programs to con-

tinue. I am certain it will improve services for our most vulnerable populations. I urge Members to support this bipartisan agreement.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I support S. 1533, the "Health Care Safety Net Amendments of 2002," an important piece of legislation. It reauthorizes the National Health Service Corps, the Community Health Centers program, and will establish a limited Community Access Program. S. 1533 is vital to providing health care services to the uninsured and under-insured. Health centers are located in more than 3,400 communities in all 50 states and often are the only available source of care for uninsured and medically underserved individuals.

We passed H.R. 3450, a very similar bill, two weeks ago, and are back with S. 1533 which incorporates changes to H.R. 3450 needed to assure speedy enactment. The most significant change is an improved Community Access Program, which helps local communities coordinate the use of scarce healthcare dollars. Other changes increase access to community healthcare programs. And the bill now authorizes demonstration projects for chiropractors and pharmacists within the National Health Service Corps, as well as provides a ten percent set-aside for loans and scholarships for disadvantaged individuals.

Health centers are effective and efficient providers of care to millions of our country's most vulnerable people. Ensuring access to primary and preventive care, regardless of insurance status or income, is an important component of our efforts here today. I urge adoption of this important legislation.

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GUTKNECHT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1533, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 2 p.m. today.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON) at 2 p.m.

## MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the text of the bill (H.R. 3295) "An Act to establish a program to provide funds to States to replace punch card voting systems, to establish the Election Assistance Commission to assist in the administration of Federal elections and to otherwise provide assistance with the administration of certain Federal election laws and programs, to establish minimum election administration standards for States and units of local government with responsibility for the administration of Federal elections, and for other purposes," and that the Senate recede from its amendment to the title of H.R. 3295.

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will now put the question on approval of the Journal, and then on motions to suspend the rules on which further proceedings were postponed on Tuesday, October 15, and earlier today in the order in which that motion was entertained.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Approval of the Journal, de novo;  
H.R. 2155, by the yeas and nays;  
S. 1533, by the yeas and nays.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first such vote in this series.

## THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the pending business is the question de novo of agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal of the last day's proceedings.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 330, nays 52, answered "present" 1, not voting 48, as follows:

[Roll No. 464]

YEAS—330

Abercrombie	Andrews	Ballenger
Ackerman	Baca	Barcia
Akin	Bachus	Barr
Allen	Baker	Barrett

Bartlett	Green (TX)	Myrick	Velazquez	Watts (OK)	Wilson (SC)
Barton	Green (WI)	Nadler	Vitter	Waxman	Wolf
Bass	Greenwood	Napolitano	Walden	Weiner	Woolsey
Becerra	Grucci	Neal	Walsh	Weldon (FL)	Wu
Bentsen	Gutierrez	Nethercutt	Wamp	Weldon (PA)	Wynn
Bereuter	Hall (TX)	Ney	Watkins (OK)	Wexler	Young (AK)
Berkley	Hansen	Northup	Watson (CA)	Whitfield	Young (FL)
Berman	Harman	Norwood	Watt (NC)	Wilson (NM)	
Berry	Hastings (WA)	Nussle			
Biggert	Hayes	Ortiz			
Bilirakis	Hayworth	Osborne			
Bishop	Herger	Ose			
Blumenauer	Hill	Otter	Aderholt	Hefley	Platts
Blunt	Hobson	Owens	Baird	Hilliard	Ramstad
Boehlert	Hoefel	Pasci	Baldwin	Johnson, E. B.	Reyes
Boehner	Hoekstra	Pasci	Borski	Jones (OH)	Schaffer
Bonilla	Holden	Paul	Brady (PA)	Kennedy (MN)	Schakowsky
Bonior	Holt	Pelosi	Capuano	Kucinich	Sherman
Bono	Honda	Pence	Clay	Larsen (WA)	Stenholm
Boozman	Hooley	Petri	Condit	Latham	Stupak
Boswell	Horn	Phelps	Costello	LoBiondo	Sweeney
Boucher	Hostettler	Pickering	Crane	McDermott	Taylor (MS)
Boyd	Houghton	Pitts	DeFazio	McGovern	Thompson (CA)
Brady (TX)	Hoyer	Pombo	English	McNulty	Thompson (MS)
Brown (FL)	Hulshof	Pomeroy	Fattah	Miller, George	Udall (NM)
Brown (OH)	Hunter	Portman	Fossella	Moore	Visclosky
Brown (SC)	Hyde	Price (NC)	Gillmor	Oberstar	Weller
Burr	Inslee	Pryce (OH)	Gutknecht	Oliver	Wicker
Burton	Isakson	Putnam	Hart	Pallone	
Buyer	Israel	Quinn	Hastings (FL)	Pastor	
Calvert	Issa	Radanovich			
Camp	Istook	Rahall			
Cannon	Jackson (IL)	Rangel			
Cantor	Jackson-Lee	Regula			
Capito	(TX)	Rehberg			
Capps	Jefferson	Reynolds			
Cardin	Jenkins	Rivers			
Carson (IN)	John	Rodriguez			
Castle	Johnson (CT)	Roemer			
Chabot	Johnson (IL)	Rogers (KY)			
Chambliss	Johnson, Sam	Rogers (MI)			
Clyburn	Jones (NC)	Rohrabacher			
Coble	Kanjorski	Ros-Lehtinen			
Collins	Kaptur	Ross			
Cox	Keller	Rothman			
Cramer	Kelly	Roybal-Allard			
Crenshaw	Kennedy (RI)	Royce			
Crowley	Kerns	Ryan (WI)			
Culberson	Kildee	Ryun (KS)			
Cummings	Kilpatrick	Sanchez			
Cunningham	Kind (WI)	Sanders			
Davis (CA)	King (NY)	Sandlin			
Davis (FL)	Kingston	Sawyer			
Davis (IL)	Kirk	Saxton			
Davis, Jo Ann	Klecza	Schiff			
Deal	Knollenberg	Schrock			
DeLauro	Kolbe	Scott			
DeLay	LaFalce	Sensenbrenner			
DeMint	Lampson	Serrano			
Deutsch	Langevin	Sessions			
Diaz-Balart	Lantos	Shadegg			
Dicks	Larson (CT)	Shaw			
Dingell	LaTourette	Shays			
Doggett	Leach	Sherwood			
Doolittle	Lee	Shimkus			
Doyle	Levin	Shows			
Dreier	Lewis (CA)	Shuster			
Duncan	Lewis (KY)	Simmons			
Dunn	Linder	Simpson			
Edwards	Lipinski	Skeen			
Ehlers	Lofgren	Skelton			
Emerson	Lowey	Smith (MI)			
Eshoo	Lucas (KY)	Smith (NJ)			
Etheridge	Lucas (OK)	Smith (TX)			
Evans	Lynch	Smith (WA)			
Everett	Maloney (NY)	Snyder			
Farr	Markey	Solis			
Ferguson	Mascara	Souder			
Flake	Matheson	Spratt			
Fletcher	Matsui	Stark			
Foley	McCarthy (MO)	Strickland			
Forbes	McCollum	Sullivan			
Ford	McCrery	Sununu			
Frank	McHugh	Tanner			
Frelinghuysen	McIntyre	Tauscher			
Frost	McKeon	Tauzin			
Gallegly	Meehan	Terry			
Gekas	Meek (FL)	Thomas			
Gibbons	Meeke (NY)	Thornberry			
Gilchrist	Menendez	Thune			
Gilman	Millender	Thurman			
Gonzalez	McDonald	Tiahrt			
Goodlatte	Miller, Dan	Tiberi			
Gordon	Miller, Jeff	Tierney			
Goss	Mollohan	Toomey			
Graham	Moran (KS)	Towns			
Granger	Moran (VA)	Turner			
Graves	Morella	Udall (CO)			
	Murtha	Upton			

## NAYS—52

## ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Tancred

## NOT VOTING—48

Armey	Dooley	McKinney
Baldacci	Ehrlich	Mica
Blagojevich	Filner	Miller, Gary
Bryant	Ganske	Obey
Callahan	Gephardt	Payne
Carson (OK)	Goode	Peterson (MN)
Clayton	Hilleary	Peterson (PA)
Clement	Hinchee	Riley
Combest	Hinojosa	Roukema
Conyers	LaHood	Rush
Cooksey	Lewis (GA)	Sabo
Coyne	Luther	Slaughter
Cubin	Maloney (CT)	Stearns
Davis, Tom	Manzullo	Stump
DeGette	McCarthy (NY)	Taylor (NC)
Delahunt	McInnis	Waters

□ 1426

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota and Mr. FOSSELLA changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 464 I was inadvertently detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Stated against:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 464, I was conducting official business in my San Diego, California district. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on each additional motion to suspend the rules on which the Chair has postponed further proceedings.

## SOBER BORDERS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 2155, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr.